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B O R O U G H O F H A L E S O W E N


R E P O R T

of the work of the

P U B L I C H E A L T H D E P A R T M E N T

for the year

1971



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THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND LICENSING COMMITTEE, 1971

Chairman

Alderman K.W. JOHNSON

Vice-Chairman

Alderman W.C.J. RAY, D.F.C.

The Mayor

Councillor A.N. BROWN

Members

Aldermen D.C. HERBERT, B.J. SHAW, Councillors S.A. GUEST,
Mrs. D.E. COOK, L. HUGHES, C. WILLETTS, Miss J.K. GRAINGER,
and J.G. CAMPION.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. TWOMEY, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., N.U.I., D.T.M. & H., D.P.H., M.F.C.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

A. ARCHER (a.b.c.)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

A.R. HUMPHRIES (a.b.c.)

Senior Public Health Inspector:

D. SPURRIER (a.b.c.)

District Public Health Inspectors:

I.B.W. CUTLER (d.c.)

J.E. EVANS, B.Sc. (e)

G.L. ADAMS (d.f.) (until 1.6.71)

H.G. WILLIAMS, B.Sc. (e)

R.C. BRACEY (d.) (from 1.10.71)

Pupil Public Health Inspectors

W.J. OSBORNE

R.M. CORBETT

Technical Assistants:

D.G. HOOPER

M.J. HAYWARD (from 12.7.71)

Chief Clerk:

L.S. QUARTLY

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health:

Mrs. P. PETERS

Secretary to the Chief Public Health Inspector:

Mrs. P. MARSH

Clerk/Shorthand Typists:

Mrs. J.M. BROWN

Miss S.L. MORRIS (until 25.4.71)

Mrs. J. BELLINGHAM (from 2.6.71)

- (a) Public Health Inspector's Certificate
- (b) Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate
- (c) Smoke Inspector's Certificate
- (d) Diploma of the Public Health Inspector's Education Board
- (e) B.Sc., in Environmental Health
- (f) Diploma of Air Pollution Control

ANNUAL REPORT, 1971

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of
Halesowen.

Vital Statistics

The estimated mid-year population at 53,990 shows an increase of 1,670 over the corresponding figure of the previous year. The birth-rate, however, has fallen from 17.3 to 15.9 per 1,000 population, thus reflecting an interesting national trend which may be relevant when attempting to estimate future population figures in Britain. As the number of deaths in the Borough (623) shows an increase of 46 and the absolute number of births (875) a fall of 42 as compared with the 1970 figure; the estimated increase in population, if correct, must be caused by immigration into the Borough, and this is scarcely surprising in view of the amount of new housing development continually taking place.

Causes of Death

.. Once again, approximately half the deaths are attributable to diseases of the heart and blood-vessels. This group of diseases, the scourge of western societies, is the price we have to pay for good living and particularly for overeating, cigarette-smoking and lack of exercise.

Once more malignant diseases take a heavy toll. This is to some extent an inevitable consequence when a high proportion of the population live to a ripe old age because this group of diseases affects mainly the elderly. In our present state of knowledge some forms of cancer have no preventable cause. Others, however, do: we no longer, for instance, see cancer of the skin caused by soot which in past times was an occupational disease of chimney sweeps, a group constantly exposed to soot and with meagre if any bathing facilities. Cancer of the lip is less common since chalk pipes have gone out of use. There are other examples of external agents known to be cancer-causing and once this is established in a given case, it would seem reasonable for the community to take appropriate preventative action. Sometimes, however, especially when there are conflicting commercial pressures, this is not easy, and cigarette smoking, known to be a cause of lung cancer, is a case in point. The number of cases of lung cancer in 1971 was 37, an increase of 13 on the previous year's figure.

Cancer of the lung has been discussed in innumerable reports by Medical Officers of Health of this and other boroughs because it is in most cases a preventable disease. Accidents also are in theory preventable, and therefore it is saddening to find 22 fatalities from this cause in the Borough six of which involved motor vehicles and to note that three of the six people killed were under twenty-five years of age.

Control of Infectious Disease including imported disease

A ten year old girl newly arrived in the country was admitted to East Birmingham Hospital from the Borough in July, 1971 and was found to be suffering from typhoid fever. She made a good recovery and laboratory tests on the girl and her family proved that there was no danger of spread of the disease in this country.

Later in the year, there was a cholera outbreak in Spain and the Public Health Department was notified of the names and addresses of returning holiday-makers from that country. They were visited, and when necessary, laboratory investigations were carried out to exclude the possibility of cholera infection: all such tests were negative.

It is worth recording that on the advice of the Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health and Social Security, routine smallpox vaccination of children was discontinued in 1971.

Venereal Diseases

In recent years there has been an alarming increase in the number of cases of gonorrhoea treated at clinics throughout the country. This contrasts with syphilis, another venereal disease the incidence of which is declining. As these infections are not notifiable there are no figures available for Halesowen but it is of interest that the experience of the Special Clinic at Birmingham General Hospital faithfully reflects the national trend.

	<u>Syphilis</u>	<u>Gonorrhoea</u>
1960	299	2444
1965	342	3433
1971	221	5562

Treatment for venereal diseases, especially in the early stages, is highly successful and neither prolonged nor extremely unpleasant as in the pre-antibiotic era. Unfortunately in the case of females, symptoms in the early stages may be slight or absent, thus giving little or no warning to the woman concerned who is, nevertheless, highly infectious to sexual partners.

Confidential investigations and treatment are available at Birmingham General Hospital (telephone 021-236 8611) and Dudley Guest Hospital (telephone Dudley 53037)

Halesowen Home Safety Committee

As usual talks and film shows were given by Health Visitors and others. The publication of a monthly column on the subject in the Circular was continued, the space being kindly afforded free of charge by the proprietor, Mr. H. Taylor.

The main project of the year was a 'Hazard House'. A house due for demolition near the centre of the Borough was made available free of charge by the owners and a display depicting many kinds of domestic hazards was prepared with the co-operation of the Fire Service, the police, the M.E.P., the Gas Board, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and Association, Health Visitors, the staff of the Public Health Department and others.

Hazard House was opened by the Mayor and was manned by the St. John Ambulance Brigade and other volunteers. It remained open for a week, groups of school-children being admitted by prior arrangement in the mornings and the general public in the afternoons and evenings.

Each visitor was invited to take a programme and 500 to 600 programmes were issued in this way. Photographs depicting parts of the demonstration were published in the local press and also in RoSPA's Home Safety Journal.

Other activities of the Committee included the purchase of fireguards for families in need. Successful representation was made to the Halesowen Council regarding safety catches in the windows of council houses. In addition, some 15,000 paper bags were distributed to the pharmacists of the Borough. Each bag carried the following captions:-

Always Lock Pills and Medicines away from Children
Flush away or Burn all Unusual Pills and Medicines
Never take Pills or Medicines prescribed for Others
Never take Medicines in the Dark.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

This post was not filled during the year.

Acknowledgments

I would like to express my appreciation for the support and co-operation which I received from the Mayor, the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, Mr. J.B. McCooke, Mr. A. Archer, the other Chief Officers of the Council and the staff of the Public Health Department. I am also deeply indebted to Dr. C. Starkie, Medical Officer of Health, Kidderminster Borough Council, for having made himself available to deal with emergencies during my occasional absences from the district.

J. TWOMEY.

Medical Officer of Health.

December, 1972.

SECTION A

Statistics and Social Conditions

Areas of the district	5,237 acres
Population census, 1961	44,445
Population (R.G.'s est. June 1971)	53,990
Rateable Value (31st December, 1971)	£2,540,981
Sum represented by the penny rate (est.)	£25,080
Number of inhabited dwellings at the end of 1971	19,000
Number of persons per dwelling	2.95

Deaths in Halesowen

Male	Female	Total
353	270	623

Crude death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ..	11.5
Area comparability factor	1.10
Adjusted death rate	12.7
Death rate for England and Wales	11.6

The adjusted death rate is obtainable by multiplying the crude death rate by the comparability factor.

The following vital statistics relate to mothers and infants for 1971:

Live Births:

Number	861
Rate per 1,000 population	15.9
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent. of total live births) ..	4

Stillbirths:

Number	14
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	16
Total Live and Still Births	875
Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)	21

Infant Mortality Rates:

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	24
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	23
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	65

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births)	12
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births)	10
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)	26
Maternal Mortality Rate including abortion per 1,000 total live and still births for Halesowen	Nil.
Neo-natal Mortality Rate infant deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births for England and Wales	12
Birth rate adjusted by comparability factor of 0.96	15.3
Birth rate of England and Wales	16.00
Still birth rate for England and Wales	12.00
Perinatal Mortality Rate for England and Wales	22
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	18
Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis, England and Wales, per million population	18
Corresponding figure for Halesowen, per million population ..	17
Cancer of the lung and bronchus per million, England and Wales	630
Corresponding figure for Halesowen (37 deaths)	660
Other cancer per million, England and Wales	1.379
Corresponding figure for Halesowen	1,518

VITAL STATISTICS

	Males		Females	
	Total	Legit.	Illegit.	Total Legit. Illegit.
Live Births	466	452	14	395 378 17
Still Births	11	11	-	3 3 -
Deaths of Infants:				
Under 1 year of age	14	12	2	7 7 -
Under 4 weeks of age	6	4	2	4 4 -
Under 1 week of age	5	3	2	4 4 -

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	All Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 1 year	1- 5-	15- 25-	35- 45-	55- 65-	75 and Over
B4 Enteritis and other diarrhoeal diseases	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B6(1) Late effects of respiratory T.B.	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B18 Other infective and parasitic diseases	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(1) Malignant neoplasm, buccal cavity etc.	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
B19(2) Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(3) Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
B19(4) Malignant neoplasm, intestine	M	8	-	-	-	-	-	2	4
	F	10	-	-	-	-	-	3	2
B19(6) Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M	30	-	-	-	-	-	10	6
	F	7	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
B19(7) Malignant neoplasm, breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	8	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
B19(8) Malignant neoplasm, uterus	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
B19(9) Malignant neoplasm, prostate	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
B19(10) Leukaemia	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B19(11) Other malignant neoplasm	M	18	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
	F	18	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
B20 Benign and unspecified neoplasms	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
B21 Diabetes mellitus	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

[illegible]

B34 Peptic ulcer	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
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COMPARATIVE FIGURES OF INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

AND MORTALITY RATES FOR HALESGOWEN

	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
Food Poisoning	-	4	5	4	2	-	2	6	3	-	6	7
Measles	219	198	103	237	294	194	511	285	794	10	545	39
Scarlet Fever	12	25	30	17	36	29	24	19	50	25	13	37
Typhoid	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	8	5	11	33	50	11	1	23	30	-	6	66
Dysentery	1	-	4	26	3	-	3	2	15	50	-	2
Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Respiratory T.B. (new cases)	3	7	7	2	12	7	5	10	7	7	11	14
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Jaundice	5	4	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Neonatal Mortality Rate	12.0	12.1	4.7	4.8	8.9	10.4	21.4	12.4	13.6	10.6	16.8	14.4
Infant Mortality Rate	24.0	17.6	9.5	8.4	11.4	19.6	21.4	19.3	21.9	11.9	18.4	23.1
Perinatal Mortality Rate	26.0	21.8	17.5	11.9	22.5	18.1	21.7	25.8	33.4	28.6	31.6	41.9

SECTION B

General Provision of Health Services in the Borough of Halesowen

1. (a) Public Health Officers

The staff of the Public Health Department is given on page 3.

(b) Laboratory Facilities

The work is carried out at the Worcester County Laboratory by the County Analyst, Mr. W.E. Jones, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Bacteriological work is done by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester, under the Medical Director, Dr. R.J. Henderson, M.D., Ch.B.

2. Ambulance Service

The ambulance service is provided by the Worcestershire County Council and during the year six ambulances and fifteen whole-time drivers were employed. The ambulances are radio-controlled and a twenty-four hour service is operated from the station.

The hospitals used by the inhabitants of the Borough in addition to those in the City of Birmingham and the County Borough of Wolverhampton are the Corbett Hospital and Wordsley Hospital at Stourbridge, the Guest Hospital at Dudley, and the Bronsgrove General Hospital.

Maternity cases are taken to the Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital at Stourbridge, the Birmingham Maternity Hospital Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre, and premature babies to the Unit at the Marston Green Hospital, Birmingham.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are carried by the special ambulance stationed at the Hayley Green Hospital.

3. County Council and Voluntary Agency Services

The Worcestershire County Council are the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the area. In conjunction with the W.V.S. there is a "Home Help" and "Meals on Wheels" service.

4. Tuberculosis

Sanatorium treatment and the provision of dispensary treatment are the responsibility of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

5. Infectious Diseases

Infectious disease cases are admitted to Hayley Green Hospital. This hospital is under the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board and administered by Group 17, Dudley, Stourbridge and District Hospital Group, Birmingham Region.

6. School Clinics, Infant Welfare Centres and Ante-Natal Sessions
These are provided by the County Council and the District has three centres: Hill and Cakemore, Halesowen and Cradley.

7. Welfare Foods

Distribution of welfare foods is carried out from the Infant Welfare Centres, and three shops in the Borough.

SECTION C

Housing

Details of the inspection of houses are given later in the report. In 1971, 199 dwellings were erected, 9 by the local authority, 2 by other local authorities and 188 privately. The Council at 31st December, 1971 owned 5245 dwellings.

SECTION D

Diphtheria Immunisation

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics are maintained by the County Council. During the year, most babies were being immunised with triple antigen to confer immunity against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. The number of children treated at the clinics and by the General Practitioners during 1971 was as follows:-

	Primary Treatment Completed	Boosting Doses
Under 5 years	472	88
Five to 15 years	86	437
	<u>558</u>	<u>525</u>

Measles Notifications, 1971

WARDS

	Belle Vale	Cakemore	Central	Cradley	Hasbury	Hayley Green	Hill	Lapal	Total
January	1	-	1	-	1	-	5	-	8
February	-	-	-	-	1	-	9	-	10
March	3	4	1	-	6	5	11	3	33
April	5	17	3	15	8	18	-	4	70
May	8	1	4	34	1	3	1	2	54
June	4	-	5	12	7	4	-	1	33
July	-	-	4	-	1	1	2	-	8
August	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	3
September	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
October	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
December	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>21</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>219</u>
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Tuberculosis

Seven new cases were reported during the year.

Age Periods	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	3		4	
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-	-	-	-	-
1-	-	-	-	-
5-	-	-	-	-
15-	-	-	-	-
20-	-	-	1	-
25-	2	-	-	1
35-	-	-	-	-
45-	-	1	1	1
55-	-	-	-	-
65-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

Cases remaining on Tuberculosis register:-

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
1970	53	42	6	13
1971	30	16	6	11

<u>Year</u>	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
	New Notifications	Deaths
1958	18	2
1959	21	-
1960	14	3
1961	11	-
1962	7	3
1963	7	4
1964	10	1
1965	6	1
1966	7	-
1967	12	1
1968	2	1
1969	7	-
1970	7	-
1971	3	1

Deaths from Cancer of Lung, Bronchus

Year	Males	Females
1950	10	1
1951	13	1
1952	9	2
1953	8	2
1954	10	1
1955	18	1
1956	12	2
1957	9	1
1958	22	2
1959	15	2
1960	27	-
1961	14	1
1962	14	2
1963	19	2
1964	15	1
1965	25	1
1966	20	4
1967	17	2
1968	27	4
1969	36	5
1970	17	7
1971	30	7

Notifiable Disease, 1971

Disease	Total	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	65-	Age Unknown
Scarlet Fever	12	-	-	-	1	-	9	1	1	-	-	-
Measles	219	12	23	19	20	32	101	4	-	1	-	7
Whooping Cough	8	2	2	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis Paralytic	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Typhoid	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	1	-

Public Health Department,
Council House,
Halesowen,
Worcs.
B63 3AF.
December, 1972.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

In 1971 the work of the Public Health Department steadily increased particularly in the fields of food, housing, air pollution and noise control. There are now no large areas of unfit housing left although there are isolated pockets which in the aggregate still mean that several hundred more houses are likely to be demolished in the next five years. The emphasis however, is much more on salvage operations so that with the help of improvement grants property which would surely deteriorate until it could no longer be saved can be so improved as to have its life extended for 20 to 30 years or more.

As far as air pollution is concerned, Halesowen now enjoys an enviable clarity of atmosphere and the pressure for accelerated progress to complete the smoke control programme comes from the houseowner who sees the grant provisions, not particularly in terms of smoke control, but as a sensible help to better home heating.

There are still difficult industrial problems mainly relating to noise and vibration and to the emission of grit, dust and fumes. In some fields we need stronger legislation and additional technical knowledge, but the situation could be improved if only we were to apply to the full the legislation we already have. This, in turn, means the regular inspection of industrial premises, not only to deal with complaints, but to ensure that wherever possible, by seeing that the right pollution control equipment is installed and properly used, complaints are not likely to arise.

The refuse collection service was, with few exceptions, uniformly good and the facilities for the reception of excess rubbish afforded at the tip at Mucklow Hill have done a good deal towards reducing the problem of litter dumping in the rural areas.

In presenting this report, the combined effort of the staff of the Department, I would like to record my appreciation to them and to the workmen in the public cleansing section. I would also acknowledge the help given to the Department by the Town Clerk, Mr. J. B. McCooke and his staff and by colleagues in other departments.

A. ARCHER

DEMOLITION, REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

The total number of houses in the Borough at the end of 1971 was 19,000, and this figure is steadily increasing as council and private development continues. There are 5,250 council houses of which 1,766 were built before 1945.

Slum clearance

The Council began dealing with unfit houses in the 1930's and by the outbreak of war in 1939 had made 405 demolition and closing orders.

Progress from 1945 to the end of 1971 was as follows:-

	dwellings
undertakings accepted	21
closing orders	44
demolition orders	379
clearance orders (51)	420
compulsory purchase orders (31)	619
council owned property:	
- included in clearance areas	4
- certified as unfit	34
total	<u>1,521</u>

Of this total of 1,521 dwellings, 1,431 have been dealt with since 1955.

Property dealt with during 1971

Part 11 of the Housing Act 1957

	dwellings
houses reported as unfit	5
demolition orders made	2
closing orders made	3
undertakings accepted	-

Part III of the Housing Act 1957

The following clearance area was declared during the year:-

	dwellings
Hagley Road, No. 4	<u>3</u>
total	<u>3</u>

The following orders were made and submitted to the Secretary of State for the Environment during the year:-

	dwellings
Hagley Road No.4 Clearance Order 1971	3
Lodgefield Road No.2 Clearance Order 1971	<u>2</u>
total	<u>5</u>

The following orders were confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Environment during the year:-

	dwellings
Coombs Road No. 1 Clearance Order 1970	5
Hagley Road No. 4 Clearance Order 1971	3
Lodgefield Road No. 2 Clearance Order 1971	2
Malt Mill Lane No.1 Compulsory Purchase Order	<u>5</u>
total	<u>19</u>

Rehousing from slum clearance property during 1971.

During the year the Council rehoused families from the following properties subject to orders under the Housing Act 1957:-

from property dealt with under Part II	10
from property dealt with under Part III	<u>50</u>
total	<u>60</u>

Dwellings demolished during 1971

37 and 39 Highfield Lane,
14 and 16 High Street
2,4,14,16,18,20,24,28,30,32,34,36,38,
44,46, and 48 Hill Street,
17 and 18 Lodgefield Road
12,14,16,18,40,42,44,46,48,50 and 52 Lyde Green.

Improvement of houses

Improvement areas

During the course of the year, work continued on inspecting properties in the general improvement areas. In March, 1971, the council declared the first improvement area in Hill and Cakemore. This area is known as the Borough of Halesowen General Improvement Area No.1 (Hill and Cakemore). All the houses have been inspected.

Meetings with the residents in the area were held at the end of August to discuss the draft environment plans, and they were asked to comment on and make suggestions about the draft plans for their streets. The proposals were accepted for Green Lane, Clement Road, Nimmings Road and Long Lane, but the residents of Church Street asked for minor modifications to be made to the plans. A new scheme has been prepared in collaboration with the County Planning Officer which incorporates the wishes of the majority of residents at the meeting.

Four houses have been purchased by the Council for use as show houses. It is hoped to have three houses improved and open to the public during 1972. The fourth house will be used unimproved as a comparison.

Improvement grants

Standard grants.

	applications		grants		amount	number of houses	
	received	approved	paid	refused	paid	tenanted	owner/ occupied
1964	66	59	38	7	£ 5,500	3	35
1965	39	37	32	-	4,737	2	30
1966	38	35	23	-	3,857	3	20
1967	44	42	23	-	3,372	5	18
1968	50	41	50	1	8,353	17	33
1969	46	36	39	-	6,014	15	24
1970	49	32	40	4	7,122	9	31
1971	38	36	32	-	4,943	8	24

amenities provided:-

fixed bath	21
wash-hand basin	25
hot water supply	22
water closet	28
sink	8

Under the Housing Act 1969, the sink replaced the food store as a standard amenity

Discretionary grants

	applications		grants		amount	number of houses	
	received	approved	paid	refused	paid	tenanted	owner/ occupied
1964	10	8	8	2	1,835	1	7
1965	5	4	6	1	1,845	1	5
1966	1	-	2	1	503	1	1
1967	1	1	3	-	922	2	1
1968	2	2	1	-	382	-	1
1969	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
1970	23	11	5	8	3,308	3	2
1971	68	65	17	4	10,370	5	12

Following the Housing Act 1969 it can be seen from the figures that there was a sharp increase in the numbers of improvement grant applications during 1970 and 1971.

Qualification certificates.

In 1971 applications for qualification certificates increased. The figures below include applications received upto the end of 1971.

standard amenities already provided:

applications	52
refusals	45
certificates granted	33

improvement cases.

applications	15
provisional certificates	17
refusals	-
certificates granted (Improvement work completed)	7

Repair and maintenance of dwellings:

Complaints of disrepair have been dealt with as follows:-

Informal notices requiring work to be carried out	16
Statutory notices (Section 93 Public Health Act 1936) requiring repair work to be carried out	21

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION. HOUSING ACT 1961 and 1969.

There are thirty-four houses in multiple occupation in the Borough.

These have nearly all been inspected and the remaining inspections will be completed early in 1972.

Inspections have revealed deficiencies in means of escape, provision of facilities, over-occupation, and in a few cases, of unsatisfactory management.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply to the Borough is from boreholes at Churchill and at Hagley, and from the Hayley Green Works which is fed from the Birmingham Corporation Elan Aqueduct. All supplies are satisfactory in quality and are not subject to plumbo solvency.

Only the Hayley Green Works supply showed any measureable amount of flouride, the supply being affected by the introduction of fluoride by Birmingham Corporation Water Department. The average fluoride content for the year was 0.82 ppm.

All the houses in the Borough are supplied direct from the public mains.

During 1971 the following samples of water were taken:-

Churchill Pumping Station	52 raw	52 chlorinated
---------------------------	--------	----------------

Hagley Pumping Station	104 raw	52 chlorinated
Hayley Green Works	52 raw	52 chlorinated

Eight samples of raw water from the Hayley Green Works and six samples of raw water from the Hagley Pumping Station contained coliform bacteria. All other samples, however, were satisfactory both biologically and chemically.

Fifty-one samples taken direct from the service main at the Fire Station, Hagley Road, were also satisfactory as were eleven taken at Waxland Road. The chemical results were satisfactory as follows:-

	<u>Waxland Road</u>	<u>Fire Station</u>
	<u>parts per million</u>	
alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	104	103
chlorides (Cl)	21.8	25.5
ammoniacal nitrogen (N)	trace	trace
albuminoid nitrogen (N)	trace	trace
oxidised nitrogen (N)	6.1	5.9
oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C)	.14	.13
temporary hardness	104	103
permanent hardness	69	70
total hardness	173	173
iron (Fe)	nil	nil
manganese (Mn)	nil	nil

The following main extensions were carried out in Halesowen during 1971:

size of mains	2"	3"	4"	6"	8"
site	yds	yds	yds	yds	yds
Hagley Road	150	-	-	-	-
Hayseech	-	-	279	10	2
Alexandra Road	-	97	-	-	-
The Incline	-	-	8	-	-
total	150	97	287	10	2

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE

The main sewerage for the Borough and the treatment of sewage is the responsibility of the Upper Stour Main Drainage Authority, whose district is comprised of the Boroughs of Halesowen and Stourbridge and parts of the County Boroughs of Dudley and Warley.

The Authority consists of twelve members from the constituent authorities as follows:-

Dudley County Borough Council	- 6 Members
Warley County Borough Council	- 2 Members
Halesowen Borough Council	- 2 Members
Stourbridge Borough Council	- 2 Members

Main Drainage

The construction of the sewer and dual syphon from Park Lane, Halesowen via Saltbrook End to Dunns Bank Dudley, was completed during 1971, and there is now adequate capacity for all future development in this area. This should relieve the Borough's surcharged sewers in the Hog^Ul Lane area where there had been some cases of flooding in former years.

The existing trunk sewerage network from Drews Holloway via Belle Vale to Corngreaves Hall is currently operating at its maximum capacity. The Drainage Authority are designing duplicate sewers and syphons and it is hoped that these will be constructed during 1973. This will provide further main sewerage capacity for proposed development in the Lutley area.

Consulting Engineers have been appointed to design a 54" diameter trunk sewer in the Stour Valley between Lye and Dunns Bank, together with a 21" interceptor sewer from Hay Green to the Freehold Works.

Sewage Disposal

The Drainage Authority have sewage treatment works at Freehold and Caledonia on adjacent sites either side of the River Stour near Lye. These two works provide treatment for a maximum of 13 million gallons per day. The Freehold Works was commissioned in August 1967 and is producing an effluent of very high standard. There are proposals to duplicate the size of this works during the next five year period and this will then eliminate the necessity for irrigating sewage on the

Whittingham Hall Sewage Farm at Kinver.

Tenders have been received and work will commence during 1972 on the new modern sludge treatment plant at the Roundhill Works.

Construction has already commenced on a new pumping station and 4 miles of twin 8 ins. diameter sludge pumping mains from the Freehold Works to the Roundhill Works.

FOOD MANUFACTURE, PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION

The work in this field over the last twelve months has been restricted because for almost half the year the department was without a specialist food inspector. An appointment was made towards the end of the year and the work returned to normal. The effect of this staffing problem has been to reduce the number of routine inspections carried out compared with those in 1970 and there has been a decrease in the number of samples submitted for analysis. One hundred per cent meat inspection has been maintained at the three private slaughter houses within the Borough.

Some experimental work was carried out in the department using metal drink pourers obtained from one of the licensed premises. Tests were made with bottles of sherry and martini used in a way designed to reproduce their normal use. Analysis of approximately one fifth of the drink allowed to remain in the bottles indicated that undesirable levels of zinc and copper had accumulated during use with this type of pourer. Further work with spirits, e.g. whisky and gin, using the same type of metal pourer, indicated that in these cases the pourer appeared to be satisfactory. The work has shown that metal pourers, unless of stainless steel, should not be used with drinks of an acidic nature.

An advisory leaflet was compiled and published before Christmas dealing with the proper preparation of pre-packed frozen poultry; the necessity for complete thawing and then thorough cooking; precautions which should be taken for the correct keeping of 'left-overs'; and the subsequent need for re-heating to a high temperature before serving on following days. Advice was also given on basic precautions which should be taken in the home to reduce the risk of cross contamination, that is the contamination of a cooked food by organisms from an uncooked food, prevention being the

thorough washing and sterilising of hands, utensils and kitchen surfaces after preparing uncooked food and before handling cooked food.

The following is a summary of the number of food premises in the Borough at the end of 1971:-

butchers	35	confectioners (bread & sweets)	21
cafes	13	factory canteen	20
fish & chip shops	22	public houses	58
greengrocers	34	licensed premises (clubs)	20
grocers	112	off licenses	11
tobacconists/newsagents	16	restaurants	1
miscellaneous food premises (wholesale, etc)	22	school kitchens	21

Food condemned

	tons	cwts.	lbs.
frozen foods	1	13	55
plus 1,824 fluid ounces of ice cream			
canned meat		1	69
other canned foods		4	72
raw meats at retail and wholesale premises	2	10	52

Complaints

Thirty-two complaints were received from the public during the year. These included eighteen complaints involving foreign matter in food and ten complaints involving mould on food. In every case complaints were carefully and thoroughly investigated. Discussions with representatives of retailers and manufacturers usually resulted in advice being given and subsequent measures being taken to prevent complaints of a similar nature occurring. In one case legal proceedings were instituted against the manufacturer. The importance of stock rotation has again been emphasised to members of the food trade.

The complaints received were as follows:-

mould growth on eggs

larvae in dates

beetle found in can of rhubarb

piece of glass in milk bottle

extraneous matter in loaf of bread (3)

rancid smell and taste of shortbread

fine black matter present in 3 bottles of mineral water

fly in can of mandarin oranges

mouldy wrapped loaf of bread (4)

mouldy pineapple yogurt

dead mouse in packet of bread mix

mouldy steak and kidney pie

piece of paper in milk bottle

abnormal odour in wrapped loaf

abnormal odour in chicken and mushroom pie

mouldy black pudding

foreign object in fresh cream mandarin dessert

slicing blade in wrapped loaf

extraneous matter in tin of tomatoes

mouldy cheesecake

wasp in bread cob

abnormal taste and odour of tin of custard

hair in breakfast slices

flies in jar of Honeygar liquid

pieces of polythene in pork sausage

mould growth on tin of minced beef and onions in gravy

mould growth on piece of cooked meat

Whilst there has been an increase in complaints received at the department over the last twelve months it is probable that these represent only a very small proportion of the total number of complaints which exist. The reluctance to register a complaint by a member of the public may often be due to the fact that many retailers and manufacturers are quite rightly prepared to exchange unsound goods, and re-imburse a complainant with goods to a value in excess of the faulty article. This, whilst

benefiting the individual concerned in the short term, reduces the number of defects brought to the attention of the authority and restricts the work which may be carried out to prevent a similar complaint occurring.

Sampling of Food and Drugs

141 samples of food and 9 samples of drugs were submitted to the public Analyst during the year for chemical analysis. The sampling programme was again designed to cover as wide a range of food as possible with particular emphasis on foods normally purchased by the housewife, and with special attention being given to those foods for which there are legal standards. The following eight samples were reported as unsatisfactory:-

pork sausage	- low meat content
Tonic Ambrosium	- labelling misleading and incorrect - sample did not contain minimum daily requirements of minerals and vitamins.
stewed steak with gravy	- slightly deficient in meat content
marzipan	- deficient in almond content
cheese spreads	- sample consisted of medium fat soft
Scotch	- irregular labelling
chocolate sauce	- irregular labelling
chicken fillets in jelly	- deficient in meat content

In every case the manufacturer of the product was informed and a satisfactory conclusion was reached.

<u>food sampled</u>	<u>number examined</u>	<u>number unsatisfactory</u>
artificial sweetener	1	
biscuits	2	
bread	3	
butter	3	
cheese	5	
cheese spread	3	1
chocolate confectionary	2	
coffee and chicory essence	1	
coffee, instant	5	
colouring	1	
cooking chocolate	1	1
cream	2	
cream confectionary	2	
dessert, prepared	1	
diabetic foods	3	
diet foods	2	
fish, canned	7	
fish salads	1	
flour confectionery	2	
flour, plain	1	
fruit, canned	6	
fruit pie filling	1	
honey	1	
jam	3	
lard	1	
margarine	4	
marzipan	1	1
meat extract	1	
meat products, canned	15	2
meat products, open pack	21	
meat spread	1	
milk	4	
milk dried	1	
milk, evaporated	1	
nut products	1	
pate	1	
pickles	1	
salad cream	1	
sauce	1	
sausage, beef	1	
sausage, pork	4	1

<u>food sampled</u>	<u>number examined</u>	<u>number unsatisfactory</u>
shandy	1	
soft drinks	5	
soup	5	
stuffing mix	1	
sugar confectionery	1	
sweet sauces	1	1
tonic food	1	1
vegetables, canned	4	
vegetables, dried	1	
vegetable milk substitute	1	
yoghurt	1	
total	<u>141</u>	<u>8</u>

<u>drugs sampled</u>		
Alka seltzer	1	
Calciferol	1	
Chloramphenicol	1	
Cream of tartar	1	
Gantrisin eye drops	1	
Linctus of glycerine	1	
Mycil powder	1	
Paracodol	1	
Phenylbutazone	<u>1</u>	
Total	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>

Milk

In addition to the 4 samples of milk submitted to the public analyst for chemical analysis, 2 samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. All of the routine chemical and bacteriological samples were satisfactory.

Milk Distribution

Under the Milk(Special Designation) Regulations of 1963, which governs the licensing of persons wishing to sell milk, it became necessary at the end of 1970 to re-license all persons wishing to sell milk from premises within the Borough as the statutory period of 5 years had expired. Of the 88 existing licences, 58 were re-issued with a new licence expiring at the end of 1975. Visits were made to the remaining 30 premises to ensure that milk was not being sold by shopkeepers not in possession of a licence. As in previous years all the milk is processed and/or bottled outside the Borough.

Ice Cream

There were no samples submitted for analysis during 1971.

Meat Inspection

There are four licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough. Only three of these were used for slaughtering during the year, usually two or three times each week. Inspection of carcasses and offals were carried out either during or immediately after slaughter. The quality of animals killed was again high and there was only a small percentage of diseased meat found, especially in cattle and sheep, but some 30% of pigs inspected had some abnormality which warranted some part being rejected as unfit for human consumption.

Diseases and conditions affecting parts of organs of animals inspected.

Disease or Condition	Cattle	Pigs	Sheep	Total
abscess	16	-	3	19
arthritis	-	1	-	1
ascaris	-	128	-	128
bacterial necrosis	3	1	-	4
bruising	-	3	-	3
cysticercus ovis	1	-	1	2
fascioliasis	2	-	47	49
fatty change	-	-	-	-
fibrosis	-	-	-	-
pericarditis	1	17	1	19
peritonitis	3	9	2	14
pleurisy	2	33	-	35
pneumonia	-	98	-	98
presternal calcification	-	-	-	-
tuberculosis	-	6 (head)	-	6
TOTALS	28	296	54	378

Details of animals slaughtered

	cattle excluding cows	cows	pigs	sheep	calves
Animals slaughtered and inspected	339	-	764	1,472	-
All diseases except tubercu- losis and cysticercus bovis;					
a) whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	1	-
b) carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	27	-	236	55	-
c) percentage of number inspected with disease	8	-	31	4	-
tuberculosis;					
a) whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-
b) carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	6	-	-
cysticercosis;					
a) whole carcase condemned	-	-	-	-	-
b) carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
c) carcasses subjected to refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-

The total weight of meat adjudged to be unfit for human consumption was 9 cwt. 2 qtr. 13 lbs.

WORKING CONDITIONS IN OFFICES AND SHOPS

The number of inspections carried out under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963 was also restricted by the staff shortage previously mentioned. The number of premises receiving a general inspection was about half that of the previous year, whilst the contraventions found were considerably less and represented about a tenth of last year's total. A contributing factor to this reduction is that plans of proposed new office premises are examined when they are submitted for planning permission and advice on the provisions of the legislation is given before any work is carried out, so reducing the risk of the necessity for expensive alterations after the building is occupied. Newly-opened premises were inspected as soon as possible to find out whether or not they required registration and advice was given where necessary on registration and on any work required under the Act. Most of the contraventions found were of a relatively minor nature and employers quickly complied with the requirements of the law. General impressions are that there is still a surprising ignorance of this legislation amongst employers, particularly with regard to the notification of accidents.

Registered premises and general inspections

class of premises	premises registered during the year	registered premises at end of year.	premises receiving a general inspection during the year
retail shops	9	205	68
offices	5	66	26
wholesale shops and warehouses	-	10	3
catering premises	-	51	25
fuel storage depots	-	-	-
totals	14	332	122

Number of contraventions of the Act found:

cleanliness	11
overcrowding	1
temperature	5
ventilation	2
lighting	3
sanitary conveniences	6
supply of drinking water	nil
washing facilities	9
clothing accommodation	1
sitting facilities	nil
seats (sedentary workers)	nil
eating facilities	nil
doors, passages and stairs	3
fencing (exposed parts of machinery)	nil
first aid	6
other matters	nil
total	<u>47</u>

Reported accidents on registered premises

work place	number reported & investigated	action taken	
		informal advice	no action
offices	1	-	1
retail shops	3	1	2
wholesale premises	5	1	4
catering premises	-	-	-
fuel storage depots	-	-	-
totals	9	2	7

Cause of accidents

place	cause
office	falls of persons (1)
retail shops	falls of persons (1)
	handling goods (1)
	use of hand tool (1)
wholesale warehouses	falls of persons (1)
	striking against object (1)
	handling goods (3)

All accidents reported are investigated to find out the cause and to see whether they might have been avoided. Most of the accidents were found to be due to unavoidable falls and accidents whilst handling goods.

AIR POLLUTION

The measurement of smoke and SO₂ has continued at the two stations in the Borough and the trend is shown on the accompanying graphs.

Domestic Smoke Control

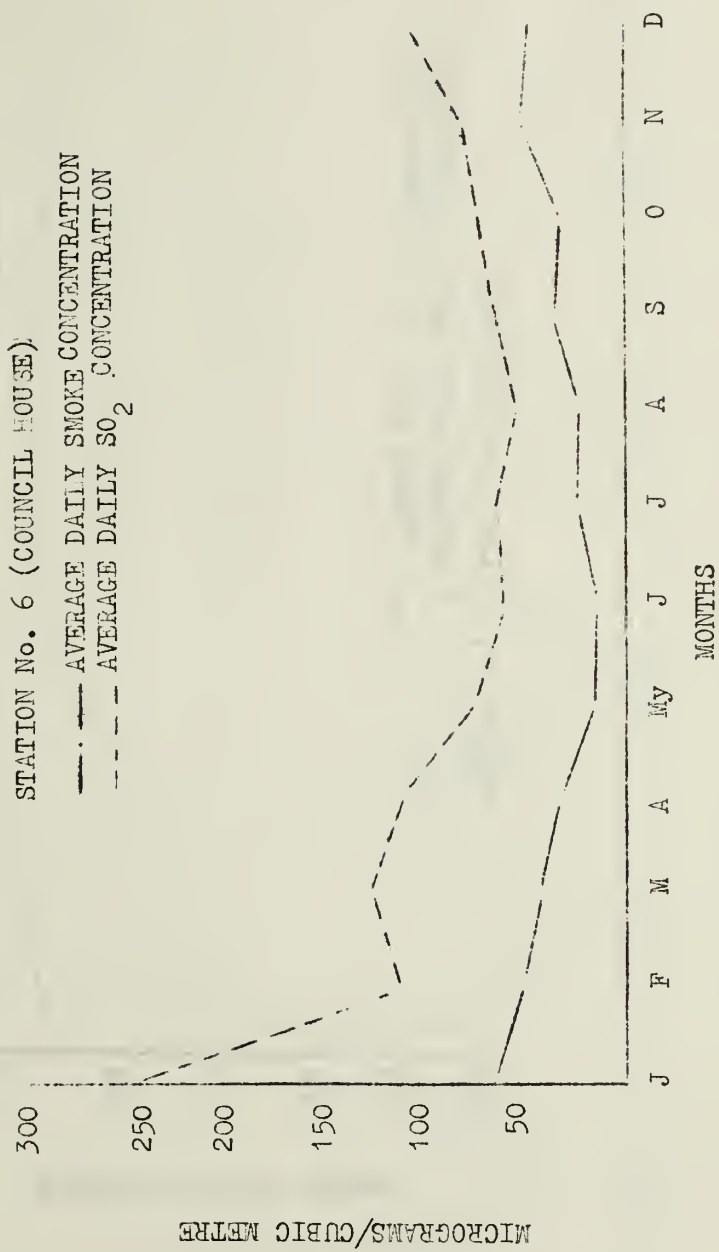
Considerable progress was made during the year with the domestic smoke control programme. The Halesowen No.31 Smoke Control Order became operative having been postponed in 1970 due to the threatened fuel shortage which in fact never materialised, no doubt due in part to many smoke control orders throughout the country being postponed over the winter.

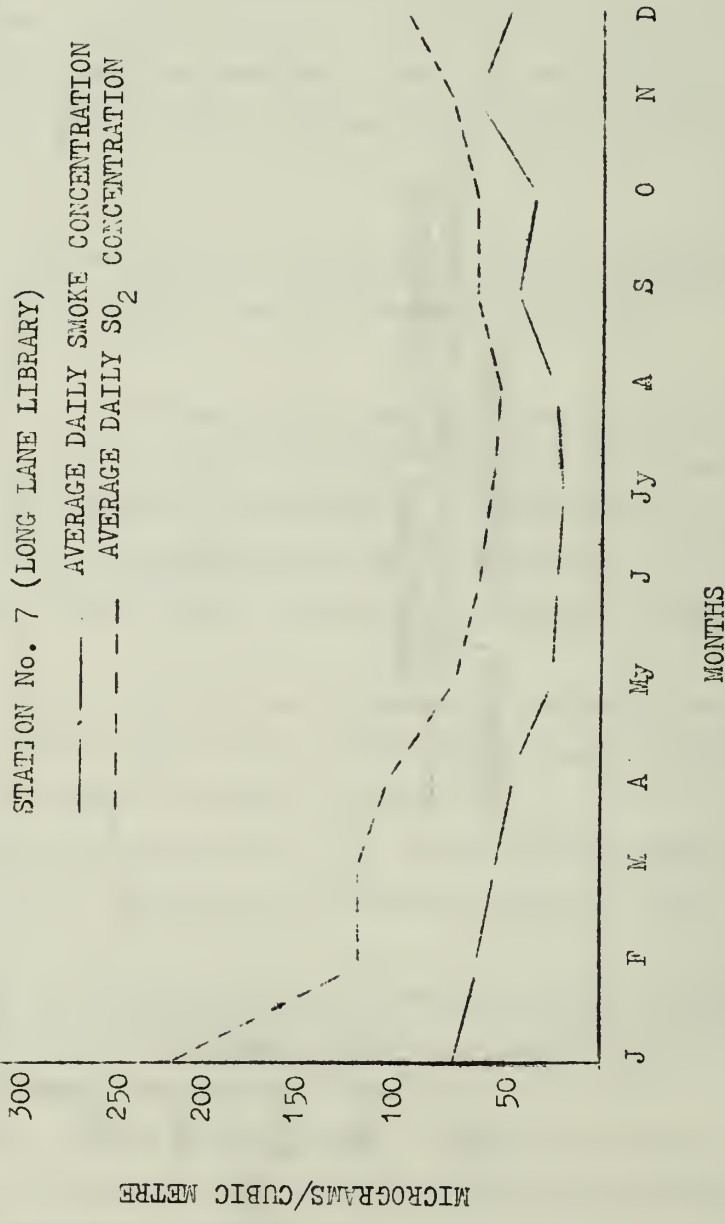
The Halesowen No.32 Smoke Control Order also became operative and together with No.31 Smoke Control Order meant that a further 1,693 dwellings were now included in operative orders.

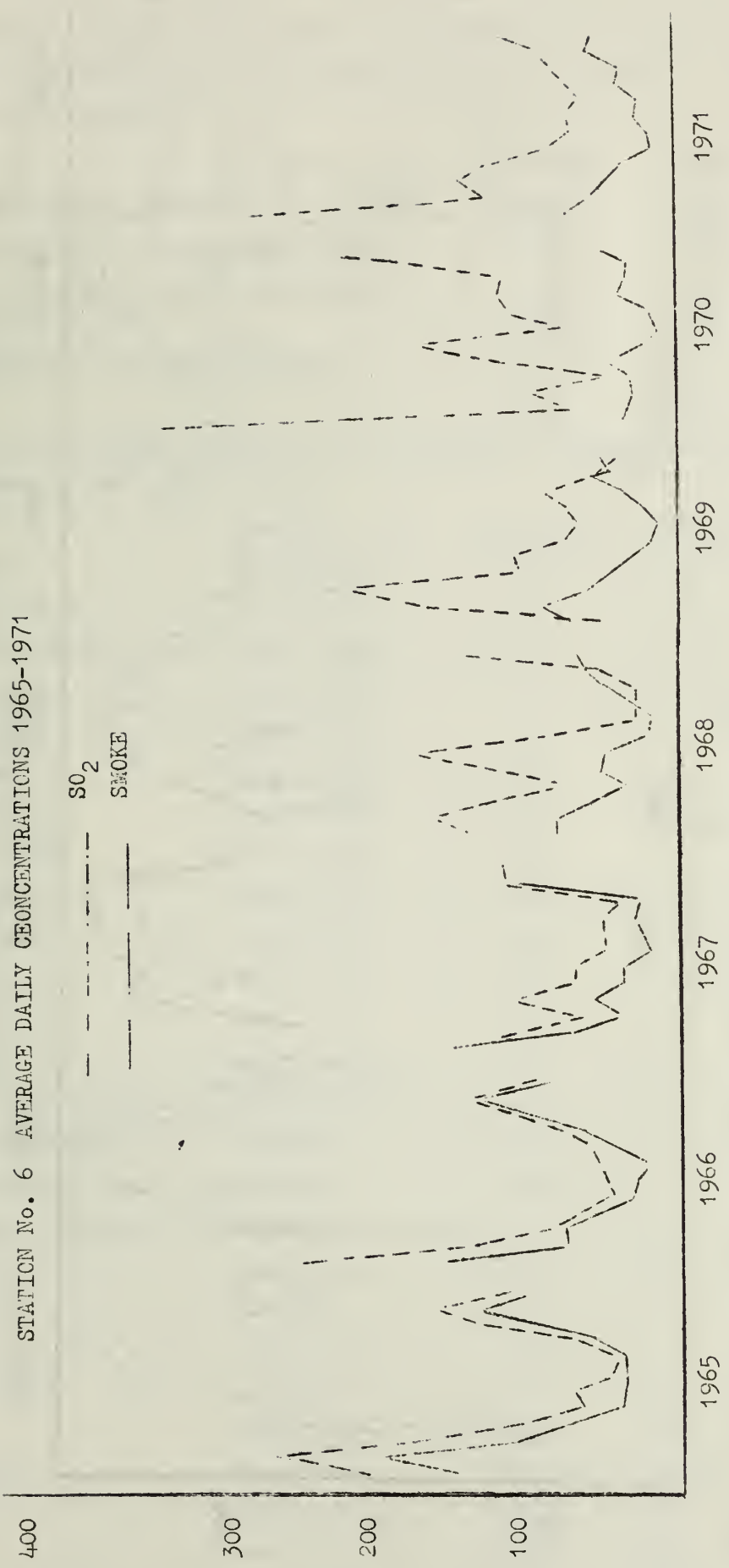
During the year three other orders, Nos. 33, 34 and 35 were made, which included a total of 2,218 dwellings and 395 acres, and No.33 was confirmed

Additionally the initial inspections for the No. 36 order was completed. This order will include 1,522 dwellings, 475 acres, and should be made and confirmed during 1972.

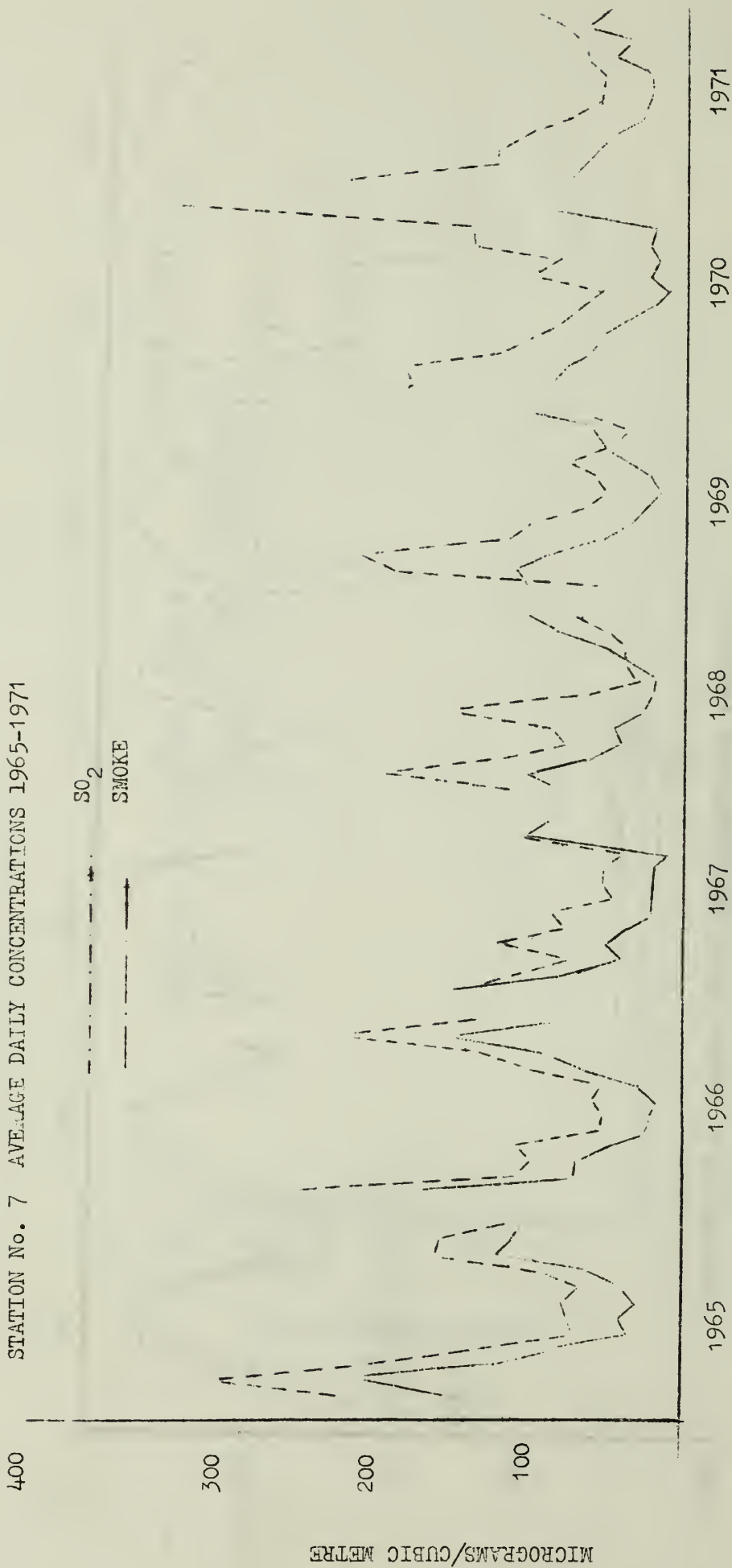
The policy of allowing council house tenants freedom of choice of appliances and receiving grant in the same way as private householders had its first trial during the year, for the Halesowen No.31 Smoke Control Order contained a small number of council houses. Each tenant was visited and those wishing to have one of the appliances being fitted by the Council's contractors were included in the contract which went out for tender. The remainder were treated as private householders, except that they were required to sign an undertaking to leave the appliance should they vacate the property. This enabled the full grant to be paid immediately on completion of the work.







STATION No. 7 AVERAGE DAILY CONCENTRATIONS 1965-1971



Not only does this system give the tenant a more satisfactory deal, but it also reduces the number of adaptations to be carried out by the Council's contractors, which in turn reduces the amount of work spent on preparing contracts and perhaps more important, on supervision. The following figures show the progress achieved by December, 1971:-

Smoke control programme

	dwellings	acres
covered by orders operative or confirmed at 31st December, 1971	10,727	3,477
orders becoming operative during 1972	1,078	150
estimated addition covered by orders to be made during 1972	1,522	474
final objective for whole of the Borough	18,995	5,237

Smoke control orders confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Environment at the end of 1971:-

	operative date	dwellings	acreage
Lapal No.1	Nov. 1961	489	82
Highfields No.1.	Oct. 1961	93	3
Howley Grange No.1	Jan. 1962	375	37
Central No.1	Nov. 1962	57	5
Central No.2	Nov. 1962	14	2
Long Innage	Nov. 1962	50	5
Dencil Close	Nov. 1962	54	4
Holcroft Road	Nov. 1962	24	3
Bath Meadow	Nov. 1962	70	4
Furlong Lane	Nov. 1962	30	2
Central No. 3	Dec. 1962	339	19
Central No. 4	Apr. 1963	31	2
Hawne No.1	Apr. 1963	8	1
No.14 Cradley Fields	July 1963	22	3
No.15 Hope Street	May 1963	65	5
No.16 Cocksheds Farm	May 1963	20	2
No.17 Spring Street	Sept.1963	38	5
No.18 Hayley Green	Nov. 1963	1,047	520
No.19 Colley Gate	Nov.1963	36	3
No.20 Colley Gate	July 1964	35	3
No.21 Hasbury	June 1964	51	301
No.22	July 1965	1,135	322
No.23 Lapal	Nov. 1964	554	87
No.24	July 1966	578	81
No.25	Oct. 1967	978	1,181
No.26	July 1966	71	6

order	operative date	dwellings	acreage
No. 27 Lapal	June 1967	133	13
No. 28	Aug. 1968	1,191	192
No. 29	Oct. 1968	63	13
No. 30	June 1970	305	139
No. 31	July 1971	1,014	214
No. 32	July 1971	679	68
No. 33	Nov. 1971	1,078	150
		<u>10,727</u>	<u>3,477</u>

Progress at 31st December, 1971

	National	West Midlands	Halesowen
percentage acreage covered by confirmed smoke control areas (black areas)	50.6	37.1	67.0
percentage dwellings included in confirmed smoke control areas (black areas)	60.4	40.5	56.0

Fireplace conversions in smoke control areas (percentages)

smoke control order	gas	electricity	solid smokeless fuel	oil
No. 18 (operative date 1.10.63)	2	9	89	-
No. 25 " " 1.10.67	63	3	34	-
No. 28 " " 1. 8.68	56.5	5	38	0.5
No. 30 " " 1. 6.70	47.7	18.7	33.6	-
No. 31 " " 1. 7.71	67	18	15	-
No. 32 " " 1. 7.71	65	18	17	

Gas remains the first choice and appears to have taken custom from solid fuel, due partly to the possibility of fuel shortage from time to time.

INDUSTRIAL AIR POLLUTION

In December I accepted an invitation to join a Working Party on Grit and Dust set up by the Dept. of the Environment to recommend emission standards for various classes of furnaces.

1971 saw a big step forward in the industrial clean air field with the introduction of new legislation to control both the measurement and the emission of grit and dust from furnaces. The Clean Air (Measurement of Grit and Dust from Furnaces) Regulations, 1971, and the Clean Air (Emission of Grit from Furnaces) Regulations, 1971 gave legal force to the majority of the report of the working party on Grit and Dust from the Department of the Environment.

One of the foundries which has in the past carried out part of its melt by induction furnaces at separate premises closed down its two remaining cupolas and transferred all its melting to electric

furnaces. One of the implications of this was that a swarf dryer which had not been used for some time due to difficulties in operation was brought back into commission. Almost immediately complaints of iron oxide fall-out were received, even though the bag filters serving the unit had been thoroughly overhauled. The fault was eventually traced to a thermocouple which was not cutting off the feed to the unit when the exhaust gas temperature rose to such a level that the efficiency of the bags themselves was impaired. Due to this concentration of melting facilities additional moulding was carried out requiring a big increase in the number of cores and two new core stoves were purchased for this purpose which recirculated the fumes back through the combustion chamber to eliminate odour, but unfortunately, still gave rise to considerable nuisance. Some improvement has been brought about by scrubbing the gases with water dosed with an odour control compound, but particularly during certain weather conditions, the core fume odour is still evident.

Towards the end of the year, a survey of non-conforming users was started, of both industrial and domestic occupiers. The survey is initially to be used to give some idea of the area of land likely to be required for industrial relocation and eventually to investigate the economic and social implications.

NOISE CONTROL

During the year some 90 complaints of noise were investigated, of which some 80% were from industrial premises, and the remainder distributed fairly evenly over the commercial, construction, demolition and domestic fields.

To help the investigations a B. & K.2204 noise meter and octave filter set was purchased. The Department already had a fourth share in a Dawe instrument, but it was felt that with the increasing amount of work on noise, the Department could justify the purchase of an instrument such as the B. & K. meter. This meter was used to carry out a daytime noise survey in the Borough's first General Improvement Area at Hill and Cakemore. To carry out the survey, variations on the methods devised for the 1970 motorway noise survey were used, and a fair idea of the noise climate in the area obtained.

Towards the end of the year, a working party was set up by the University of Aston at the suggestion of the Department to investigate the possibility of carrying out a survey of background noise throughout the West Midlands. Other authorities in the West Midlands were invited to take part, and the survey will be carried out during 1972.

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967

Abandoned vehicles

Action was taken to remove 54 vehicles during 1971, of which 22 were

removed by private contractors or with the Council's freightloader vehicle. Towards the end of the year, it was difficult to get private contractors to move the vehicles, many of which were only body shells, because the scrap value was very low. The alternative is to collect vehicles with the freightloader and dispose of them on the tip which is time consuming and takes up valuable tipping space.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

During the year a weekly refuse collection of household refuse was maintained. The service was carried out by five teams each consisting of a driver and four loaders together with a two-man team collecting bulk containers from multi-storey blocks of flats and from trade premises. The five vehicles in use on the domestic collection are compaction type vehicles. A fore and aft tipper vehicle is in use for the 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cu.yd. containers and a 10 cu.yd. container truck for certain trade premises.

Provision is made in accordance with the Civic Amenities Act for the public to dispose of excess refuse by placing 10 cu.yd. containers at the refuse tip and at other sites in the borough. The container vehicle is also used for special collections of household furniture and other bulky household articles. A minimal charge is made for this service.

Tenders for the provision of an incinerator to serve the Borough of Halesowen and Stourbridge were obtained but in view of the re-organisation of local government the two authorities decided not to proceed with this project. This has meant the continued tipping of all refuse from Halesowen and Stourbridge at the tip situated at Mucklow Hill, Halesowen.

Every effort is made to control the refuse tip to the standards laid down in the Department of the Environment Circular 26/71. Due to the nature of the refuse and the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient and regular supply of covering material it has not always been possible to achieve the standard of control required. Financial provision was made during the year to allow for an additional man and machine to be employed and it is anticipated that this will enable the desired standard of control to be achieved.

Difficulties have been encountered with the drainage from the refuse tip. Water from the site flows via a stream into the River Stour and although provision was made for drainage prior to tipping in accordance with the requirements of the Severn River Authority it was found that some pollution of the River was occurring. Excavations of the tipped refuse were carried out and the principal source of pollution was found to be due to breakages in the drainage system which were allowing tip liquor to enter. Repairs to the drainage system were carried out and this improved the situation. The site is,

however, proving to be a difficult one and both the River Authority and the Department are carrying out regular sampling so that any necessary action can be taken to avoid polluting the River Stour

In June the Dangerous Litter Act, 1971 came into force and local authorities were asked to give active support to anti-litter and dumping campaigns by providing sites at which bulky refuse could be deposited. Apart from the tip at Mucklow Hill being available at weekends for householders to dump bulky rubbish, two sites at Cradley and Howley Grange had already been provided under the Civic Amenities Act, 1967 and had helped to reduce the inconsiderate dumping of rubbish in other parts of the Borough.

SALVAGE

The slack period in the demand of waste paper which was evident at the end of 1970, continued throughout 1971. In June 1971 the Association of Municipal Corporations indicated that any improvement in the position would, when it came, be slow and that supplies to the paper mills should be limited. In October 1971 the firm which collects the Council's waste paper confirmed that the low demand still existed and that in fact supplies to them should be cut by 20%. In the event, the amount supplied by the Council was already down by 20% and the request by the firm did not cause any difficulty.

Waste paper in the Borough continues to be collected by one man and a vehicle with one man baling the paper in a Crawford twin screw press which produces bales of around 4 cwt. A fork lift truck is used to handle the bales for storage and loading purposes.

VEHICLE REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

The repair and maintenance of the Council's vehicles is carried out by the vehicle repair and maintenance section of the department. The staff consists of three engineering craftsmen.

By the end of the year the following vehicles were being repaired and serviced :-

Public health department

9 refuse freighters
5 vans
1 Austin Gypsy
2 tractors
1 official car

Highways department

2 road rollers
3 road sweepers
2 gully emptiers
4 trucks
2 vans
1 compressor
1 vibrator

Housing repairs department

6 vans
3 trucks

Parks department

1 van
2 tractors
3 trucks
34 mowers

OPERATIONAL STATISTICS

10. Area (Statute acres)	5,237
11. Population at 30th June, 1971 (Registrar General's Estimate)	53,990
12. Total refuse collection (tons)	11,536
13. Percentage of total refuse collected (tons) weighed	23
14. Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	11.7
15. Number of premises from which refuse is collected	22,358
16. Premises from which collections are made at least once weekly (%)	100
17. Average haul, single journey to final disposal point (miles)	2.5
18. Kerbside collection expressed as estimated percentage of total	-
19. Total refuse disposal of (tons)	37,291
20. Methods of disposal (salvage included) - controlled tipping (%)	100

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS
(Factories Act, 1961)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	found	remedied	to H.M. Inspector	reference from H.M. Inspector
want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-
overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-
ineffective draining of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
sanitary conveniences (S.7):-				
(a) insufficient	1	1	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	6	6	-	2
(c) not suitable for sexes	-	-	-	-
other offences (not including offences to home work)	-	-	1	-
totals	7	7	1	2
Premises	number on register			written notices
	number on register	inspection		
factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, & 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authority:	-	-	-	-
factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority:	233	39		4
other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-			-
totals	233	39		4

RIDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1964

One license was issued authorising the use of premises in accordance with the above mentioned Act.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS 1928 and 1936

During 1971, 89 premises were licensed to store petroleum or petroleum mixtures.

RODENT CONTROL

Infestations are dealt with following complaints and each complaint may require several visits. Single complaints may also involve detailed surveys and treatments of areas of ground or water course.

No. of complaints from domestic premises	-	288
number of complaints from industrial premises	-	42
		<hr/>
total		330
		<hr/>

DRAINAGE

Clearing of obstructed drains to private dwellings is carried out by the public health department as a free service to the public -

total number of obstructions cleared in 1971 - 211

RECORD OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

Public Health Acts:	
drainage, public sewers and drains	212
Nuisances:	
premises	285
keeping of animals	28
dust or effluvia	109
Public cleansing:	
dustbins, salvage,	87
tips and accumulations	16
Civic Amenities Act	278
trade refuse	664
Verminous premises:	
council houses)	8
other houses)	
Moveable dwellings	31
Watercourses and streams	6
Infectious diseases:	21
Housing Acts:	
number of houses inspected and recorded (incl.survey)	995
houses in multiple occupation	31
individual unfit	28
slum clearance	438
improvement grants and improvement areas	1,963
qualification certificates	183
Clean Air Acts:	
smoke nuisances	67
observations	86
visits to plants	74
atmospheric pollution measurements	71
smoke control areas	3,624
Noise Abatement Act:	
noise control visits and measurements	273
Factories Acts:	
factories with power	39
outworkers	4
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963:	22
Petroleum (Regulation) Acts:	169
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act:	214

Food and Drugs Act (Food Hygiene Regulations, etc.)

butchers	7
bakehouses	-
cafes, canteens, etc.	9
fishmongers, poulterers	7
fried fish shops	17
food preparation premises	6
greengrocers, fruiterers	12
grocers	13
ice-cream premises	1
markets	-
slaughterhouses	396
other food premises	-
licensed premises	11
school canteens	-
street vendors	-

Food complaints: 51

Food condemnation: 42

Food and drug sampling: 187

Land charges: 783

Miscellaneous 25

